NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PASTURES.

Mr Breck—There is an old saying yet extant, that "Land kept continually in pasture, will be enriched rather than impoverished." I think this needs some qualification before it can be received as an axiom or a proverb. We can, in any part of New England, see abundant, conclusive, and lamentable evidences of the fact, that the *mere keeping* of land in pasture, so far from operating to *enrich* it, tends to make it poor. This is where the land is left to "work out its own salvation," and renew its strength by exhaustion, unaided by any care from its owner—and the result is but natural and such as might be expected. But this does not militate with the doctrine in the saying above quoted. It is, without doubt, true, that "land kept continually in pasture, will be enriched rather than impoverished," *if*, withal, it receives due care from its owner—and this care may be bestowed by all with no great outlay of expense, and with a surety of ample remuneration.

In preference to any suggestions of my own on the proper and profitable management of pasture grounds, I will quote the views of others, better qualified than myself to teach wisdom on the subject.

Dr. Deane, in his "New England Farmer"—a very useful work—upon the subject of pastures, remarks as follows:

"To manage pasture land advantageously, it should be well fenced in small lots, of four, eight, or twelve acres, according to the largeness of one's farm and stock.

"It is hurtful to pastures to turn in cattle too early in the spring, and most hurtful to low pastures in which the grass springs earliest. Potching such land in the spring, destroys the sward, so that it will produce the less quantity of grass. The 20th of May is early enough to turn cattle into almost any of our pastures.

"In cleared pastures, it is not right to turn in all sorts of cattle promiscuously. Milch kine, working oxen, and fatting beasts, should have the first feeding of an enclosure; afterwards, sheep and horses. When the first lot is thus fed off, it should be shut up, and the dung that has been dropped, should be beat to pieces and well scattered, and the other lots should be treated in the same manner.

"Something considerable is gained by letting all sorts of grazing animals take their turn in a pasture. By means of this, nearly all the herbage produced will be eaten, much of which would otherwise be lost. Horses will eat the leavings of horned cattle, and sheep will eat some things that both one and the other leave.

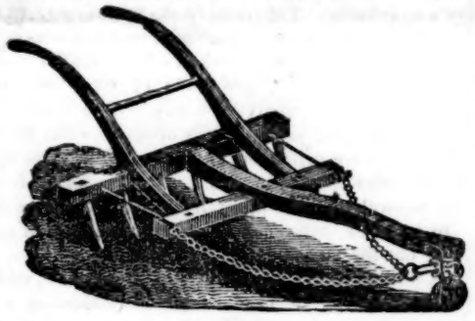
"Let the stock of a farmer be greater or less, he should have at least four enclosures of pasture land. One may be fed two weeks, and then shut up to grow; then another. Each one will recruit well in six weeks, and each will have this space of time to recruit. But in the latter part of October, the cattle may range through all the lots, unless some one may become too wet and soft. In this case, it ought to be shut up, and kept so till feeding time the next year.

"Feeding pastures in rotation, is of greater advantage than some are apt to imagine. One acre, managed according to the above directions, will turn to better account, as some say who have practiced it, than three acres in the common way, of keeping all the pasture land in one enclosure, and turning in all sorts of stock together."

The following excellent remarks upon the renovation of pasture lands, are from Buel's "Farmer's Companion":

"The evils that are experienced in pasture grounds, are, the disappearance of the best grasses, the growth of mosses and weeds in their stead, and the prevalence of coarse herbage, which cattle reject, in situations where there exists a superabundance of moisture. To remedy the evils we have enumerated, and to improve the value of pasture grounds, one or more of the following expedients may be resorted to, viz: sowing and harrowing in grass seeds, scarifying, draining, manuring, top-dressing with [crushed bones,] marl, lime, or ashes.

"Grass seed may be sown either in September or April, followed by the harrow, and if practicable by the roller. Scarifying is cutting the sod and loosening the surface. The English Scarifier [this



(Scarifier)

implement may be seen at the N. E. Farmer office—ED.] is intended to cut the sod perpendicularly, so far down as to sever the roots of the grass, which occasions it to throw out fresh roots. It slices the sod without tearing it, and should be constructed with a number of very sharp coulters, fixed into a cross-beam, at such distances as may be thought advisable, from six inches to a foot, and of a width according to the strength intended to be employed in drawing it. It should be used when the ground is in a moderate state of moisture, and the grass short. It is advantageously used to precede the sowing of grass-seeds. A foot-wheel is attached to regulate the depth of the work.

"Draining improves the quality of the herbage, and marling, liming, or ashing, increases the quantity. It is remarked that animal dung, when dropped on coarse pastures, produces little or no benefit; but when calcareous matters are laid upon the surface, the finer grasses soon take possession of it.

"Our pasture grounds are generally left to take care of themselves; but there is no doubt that expense bestowed upon their improvement, in some of the modes above suggested, would be profitably laid out. Their value depends upon the quantity and quality of the herbage which they afford. The quality is in a great measure determined by the exemption of the soil from stagnant water; the quantity, by the richness of the soil, and its exemption from moss, bushes, weeds, stones, and other surface obstructions; for if these are eradicated or removed, it is presumed the nutritious grasses will occupy their places."

By adopting in practice the advice given in the foregoing extracts, there can be no doubt that land may be kept continually in pasture without deterioration, if not with gain in richness—while the same management would restore pastures now reduced to "starvation point," (and such are by far too common,) to a state of vigor and fertility, and render them pleasant to the eye, where now they are unsightly, and profitable where now they are profitless.

I know of no surer indication of a good farmer than the thrifty appearance of his pastures. The traveller who sees from the road a herd of lean, lank, cadaverous, half-famished animals, desperately engaged in a hopeless effort to fill their bellies from the scant and miserable herbage in a pasture from which, probably, even grasshoppers have to migrate or die, is apt to make the character of the pasture a criterion for judging the character of the owner—and I venture to say that, generally, the standard is a just one.

Respectfully, J. H. D.

Progress of Invention.—A distinguished farmer of England, has invented what he terms a *hog's-head plow*—designed for turning out potatoes that are planted in drills, without hurting them. It resembles a hog's snout attached to the front part of a plow without a coulter, by which the potatoes are raised and turned out of their bed. This may be called copying nature—for it is evidently the way in which those *deep investigators*—the swine—would turn out the crop, if sent into an undug potato field.

Large Crop of Oats.—Daniel Alden, of Middleboro', obtained the first premium of the Plymouth Agricultural Society, last year, for his crop of oats, measuring 71 bushels to the acre—attested by oath. The land, the year previous, was highly manured. He soaked the seed in water 24 hours, and rolled in ashes. The Supervisor of the Society, in his report, states that this crop is an unprecedented one in that county. We think that it has seldom been matched in any county.

A correspondent of the London Gardener's Chronicle, says that by sprinkling soot over his gooseberry bushes in the morning, when moist with dew, and the buds just opening, he has kept them free from the caterpillar, for upwards of twenty years.

For the N. E. Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

Mr Breck—The Agricultural meetings at the State House, during the session of the Legislature, are, it is presumed, attended by members from different parts of the Commonwealth, including practical and scientific farmers, who are able to give results founded on experiments made under their own eye: consequently, the reports of those meetings are looked for and read with interest, in the presumption that the statements they contain are something better than the results of mere *guessing*. We farmers at a distance, have been, and are, in the habit of doing things too often from the *guessing* of our neighbors and others.

We are somewhat puzzled to reconcile the diversity of opinions expressed at these meetings, with the idea that they are founded on actual experiment, unless it be that there is that want of close observation and particularity, which it is feared is too often wanting in reference to agricultural experiments. When it is said that a horse, kept principally on *corn-cobs*, through one winter, came out better the next spring than he had for *six or eight* previous springs, the inquiries arise—How were the cobs given? How well did the horse look compared with others, kept on *English hay*?

When we hear of *compost* being made during the winter, partly from whortleberry bushes, we want to know whether they were *old or young* bushes, and whether run through a cutting machine, (for such a course *has* been pursued in case of bushes designed for manure,) and the kind of barn cellar, in order to understand how they would so far decompose as to apply to them the term *compost*, in the sense it is understood by many. This compost having been one of the agents that enabled a farmer (see report of Mr Stanley's remarks at the last meeting, in the Cultivator,) to raise corn at an expense of from "*six to sixteen* cents per bushel," (and no mistake,) it being the result of "*actual reckoning*," its manufacture assumes a degree of importance unusual for the compost heap. Perhaps the reporter has left out the material points of the case. It appears, however, that there was one gentleman present who did not get hold of the secret—probably *his* fault—for where there is *actual reckoning*, the secret can be made plain.

The subject of raising corn, is one of deep interest to Massachusetts farmers, and I hazard the opinion that, ere long, the notion so prevalent, that corn cannot be raised for less than one dollar a bushel, will become obsolete, and that *actual reckoning* will show that it can be produced at about fiftyfive cents, and be as profitable as some other crops—and also that it will be a crop to immediately precede grass—sowing the grass seed at the last hoeing—and for other reasons, it will become a general practice to leave the ground in its cultivation perfectly level, and for most of our seasons, to cut it up soon after becoming glazed, thereby securing it from frost and making the corn fodder better. Perhaps by trial, the corn thus harvested, will be found to make better bread.

Now, Mr Editor, will you try to enlighten us on these matters: if no more, give us *all* the particulars about raising corn at from *six to sixteen cents* per bushel. QUERE.

A good book and a good woman are excellent things to those who know how to value them, but there are many who judge of both only by their covering.

THE CULTURE OF CRANBERRIES.

In its wild or natural state the Cranberry is found in wet situations; in boggy grounds, in damp sandy lands, and on the low margins of ponds and streams. It will live and grow in comparatively dry soils; but it will not bear fruit without its roots are immersed in water at all seasons of the year.

Soil and situation.—The first object of the cultivator should be to select the ground for his "*cranberry yard.*" Every wet situation is not suitable. The soil must either be sand, mud, peat, or a mixture of these. There must be an abundant supply of water at all seasons of the year. If the ground is so situate that it can be flooded during the winter and spring, it is better; but it is not indispensable to success. The ground must be saturated with water, either from springs, running streams or the drainings from higher land. On the low sandy margins of ponds, the water in which is not much affected by the season, a sufficient supply of moisture will ascend, because the little spaces between the grains of sand act as so many capillary tubes for the ascent of the water; but when the margin is compact earth or unmixed peat, the dampness will not on that principle rise to the surface. In the selection of a situation for his cranberry yard, the cultivator must observe, first, whether the soil is of a loose, porous character, easily permeable to water; and second, whether there will be an abundant supply of water in the dryest seasons. If either of these two requisites is wanting, it will be useless for him to attempt the cultivation of the cranberry.

Planting and culture.—In boggy grounds it is advisable to remove the top, and cover the surface with beach sand if it can be easily procured; if not, with any sand that does not contain loam or surface soil. Till recently the common method of setting out the vines was, after the bog was covered with sand, it was marked off in parallel rows, like a field of corn, and sods of vines set from three to four feet apart each way. The usual method now is, to set in drills about two feet apart. The vines are separated, and only two or three upright stalks are set together, and are placed from six to twelve inches apart lengthwise of the drill. On wet and barren sandy land the expense of setting out the vines is much less than on bogs.

Cuttings from any part of the stem will strike root, and may be used where it is difficult or expensive to procure a sufficient quantity with roots. Where vines cannot be procured, cranberries may be sown. It is not certain but that sowing will ultimately prove to be the cheapest and most expeditious method. We know of but one instance where cranberries were sown. That experiment was successful, and the ground is now thickly set with vines.

The best time for setting the vines, we are unable to state. The common practice has been to set them at any time when the weather would admit, from November to March. The Spring, we should think, was preferable for sowing.

During the first season after they are set, vines frequently put forth numerous runners four or five feet long. The next year the runners put forth upright bearing stems, which produce cranberries on the third year. The vines do not usually become so thick set as to cover the ground before the fifth year.

Manure is worse than useless, and any vegetable or animal matter that will cause fermentation is injurious. As a general rule, the *more barren* the surface soil, the *better is it adapted* to the growth of the cranberry. The growth of the grasses in such situations will be feeble, while the cranberry obtaining its sustenance mainly from water and the atmosphere, grows luxuriantly, and will ultimately *kill out* the *grasses* and obtain complete possession of the soil.

During the first three years, it is better to pull out the grasses than to wait for the cranberry vines to overcome them. Bushes must be carefully removed as fast as they spring up, because if suffered to grow they would do great injury. No other attention is necessary, excepting that good fences must be maintained around the vines to prevent the depredations of herbaceous animals.

Profits.—One bushel of cranberries to the square rod may be considered a good crop from vines that have been set five years, though we could cite particular instances in which three or four bushels have been gathered. Raising cranberries is like all other business in life; if a man judges rightly, is prudent and industrious, he will commonly succeed; but if he depends more on good luck than on good management, in nine cases out of ten he will fail. The cranberry fever is now running high among us, and almost every man you meet exhibits some symptoms of the disease. That fortunes are suddenly to be made by all who embark in this business we do not believe; but that large profits can be obtained from vines set in good situations, such as are above described, there is no doubt. The experiments of Captain Henry Hall, Hiram Hall and Peter Hall of Dennis, of Captain Edward B. Hallett and Edward Thacher of this town, and many others that could be named, prove that the raising of cranberries in good situations is a profitable business.

We know that some of the opinions which we have given in this article will militate against the theories of a few of our friends, but we cannot help it. We have carefully examined almost every cranberry bog and yard in this county, and have carefully compared the information thus obtained, and we know that our opinions are corroborated and supported by those who have had the largest experience in the business. We do not wish to discourage any from planting vines. Far from it. We say, go ahead. All we wish is to discourage men from running blindfold into a business, respecting which all the necessary information can be so easily and so readily obtained.—*Yarmouth Reg.*

Keeping cows in winter.—Farmers prejudice very greatly their own interest in suffering their milch cows to come out in the spring in low condition. During the time they are dry, they think it enough to give them the coarsest fodder, and that in limited quantities; this, too, at a time of pregnancy, when they require the kindest treatment, and the most nourishing food. The calf itself, under this treatment of the cow, is small and feeble. He finds comparatively insufficient support from his exhausted dam; and the return which the cow makes in milk during the summer, is much less than it would be, if she came into the spring in good health and flesh. It requires the whole summer to recover what she has lost. The animal constitution cannot be trifled with in this way.—*Colman.*

The loss by rot in the potato crop of Maine last year, is estimated at $1,230,000.

PLYMOUTH CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have received the list of premiums offered by this useful Society for the present year, and will give it insertion in due season. We subjoin the Committees appointed for awarding premiums, &c.

On Improvements.—Horace Collamore, Thomas Weston, Abram Washburn, 2d.

Produce.—Anthony Collamore, Benjamin B. Howard, Dion Bryant.

Working Oxen and Steers.—Peter Salmond, Waldo Hayward, Eben'r Pratt.

Stock.—John Tilden, Samuel W. Bates, Thomas Ames.

Beef Cattle.—Nathan Whitman, Tisdale Leonard, Calvin Leavitt.

Plowing.—Joseph Kingman, Aurora W. Oldham, Simeon Curtis.

Dairy.—William Dunbar, Josiah Whitman, Wm. P. Allen.

Manufactures.—Morton Eddy, Sam'l B. Allen, Eben'r Pickens.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Bartholomew Brown, Freeman P. Howland, Geo. W. Bates.

Fancy Articles.—Nahum Washburn, Henry W. Allen, Waldo Ames.

Cocoons and Silk.—Philo Leach, Jared Whitman, Austin Packard.

Arrangements—Horace Ames, Van R. Swift, Geo. W. Pratt.

Auditors of Accounts.—Dion Bryant, Charles Mitchell.

Nominations.—Artemas Hale, Abraham Washburn, Dion Bryant.

Marshals.—Carver Washburn, Philip D. Kingman, Philip E. Hill, Jabez Harden, Eli Washburn, Virgil Ames.

TO OBTAIN DOUBLE FLOWERS.

How many erroneous circumstances up to this day have been admitted to explain the cause of doubleness in certain flowers! Thus, for example, many gardeners pretend that, to obtain double Brompton Stocks, you must gather the seeds from those flowers only which are the most double. What influence can these flowers have when *entirely deprived of the organs of generation?* None whatever.

To explain this phenomenon, we must make practice agree with theory. Every double plant is a monstrous vegetable. To produce this anomaly, we must attack the principle of its creation, that is to say, the seed. This being granted, let us examine in what way these seeds ought to be treated.

If, after gathering the seeds of Malcolmia annua, or Ten-weeks Stock, we sow them immediately, the greatest number of the seedlings will produce single flowers; but if we preserved these same seeds three or four years, and then sowed them, we should find double flowers upon nearly all the plants. To explain this phenomenon, we say that in keeping a seed for several years, we fatigue it and weaken it. Then, when we place it in a suitable soil, we change its natural state, and from a wild plant make it a cultivated one. What proves our position is, that plants, in their wild state, shedding their seeds naturally, and sowing them as soon as they fall to the ground, scarcely ever produce plants with double flowers. We think, then, that whenever a gardener wishes to produce double flowers, he ought not to sow the seeds till after having kept them for as long a time as possible.—*Revue Horticole. (French journal.)*

[The above is copied into the *London Gardeners' Chronicle*, (Prof. Lindley, editor,) without comment. If the theory of the writer be true, it is of much consequence to flower-growers; but for ourself, we confess that the writer has not so clearly explained the *rationale* of his theory as to satisfy our comprehension that his views are either plausible or correct. But the soundness of his doctrine may easily be tested by experiment. What does friend TESCHEMACHER think of the theory?]

FIFTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

In the absence of the President, Mr Calhoun, Vice President Page, of New Bedford, presided. Subject under discussion—*Cultivation of Indian Corn.*

Mr Gleason, of Wayland, remarked, that he formerly thought the corn crop to be an unprofitable one, but had now changed his mind. At 70 cents per bushel, he could raise it at a profit. With an application of 30 loads of compost, formed principally of meadow muck, he had raised from 30 to 40 bushels of corn to the acre on light lands—on other lands he has obtained heavier crops. He has raised all sorts of corn, and thought it advantageous to mix different varieties together: he was not in favor of the large 12 rowed variety: it looked well in the ear, but when shelled, did not produce so much to the bushel of ears as the varieties with a small cob. It was not his practice to cut his stalks, but to cut his corn up near the ground and stook it about the middle of September, or as soon as the corn was ripe. He thought the stover to be as valuable fodder for cattle as the same weight of English hay, if properly managed. He also believed that there was much nutriment in the *cobs:* he had known a horse kept through winter on ground cobs and meadow hay, to come out well in the spring. He gives them out to his neat cattle, and they eat them with a good relish. He planted from the 1st to the 15th of May: has sometimes had corn cut down twice in the spring by the frost, without much injury to the crop.

Mr Rice, of Middlesex, stated that on his farm, Indian corn was as profitable a crop as any he could raise. His land was a deep, moist loam; it required heavy manuring, but two large crops of corn could be raised in succession, and grass would succeed well 5 or 6 years afterwards. His experience with the large varieties of corn was similar to Mr Gleason's—had now abandoned planting it, preferring the eight rowed. For fodder, however, he liked the Dutton or 12 rowed best. For this purpose he planted in drills, very thick, and when he came to cut it up, he left a stalk every 8 inches, from which he had a decent crop of corn, as well as a good supply of green fodder. Some years ago, he turned in a crop of aftermath in the autumn, and then sowed the land with rye. This he suffered to grow until about the middle of May, when he applied 15 or 16 loads of green manure to the acre, and turned all in, harrowed, and then planted corn, manuring in the hill with a compost from the hog-pen. Another lot of sward land was plowed up the next spring, and managed nearly in the same way: each lot produced good crops—but the one broke up in the spring produced the best. He thought spring the best time to break up ground for corn.

Mr Stanley, of Attleborough, stated that for the last 30 years, he had cultivated the Indian corn crop, and believed it to be a very profitable one, though not so much for the corn itself, as for the successive crops which the cultivation of corn prepared the ground for.

While many farmers assert that corn costs a dollar per bushel to raise it, he believed that it could be profitably raised for 50 cents a bushel—at least it could be on his land.

He further stated, in the course of his remarks, that the value of the stover *would pay all expenses*, (some seasons,) leaving the whole price of the corn a clear profit [!]—or, at most, the corn would not, in the *worst* seasons, cost over 17 to 20 cents per bushel, including the value of the stover [!]

He did not pretend to say this could be done on all lands; but on deep gravelly, loamy lands, like his own, or on *sandy soils*, this could be done: a considerable portion of the State was of this character, and much more suitable for corn than grass. He could raise on this quality of soil from 40 to 65 bushels to the acre. During the three last seasons, his grass had suffered much from severe droughts, producing not more than 3-4 of a ton to the acre, whilst the corn in the field beside it, did not suffer in the least.

In bedding his cattle in the winter, he made use of leaves, whortleberry bushes, and other coarse stuff: this was thrown with the manure into the barn cellar, where it was thoroughly worked over, and from 3 to 3 1-2 cords to the acre spread upon his grass in the spring, and turned in as fast as it was spread, to prevent evaporation. He plows to the depth of 8 to 10 inches, and gives the land a good harrowing. He has plaster and ashes mixed at the rate of one bushel of the former to two of the latter; he takes some of this composition in a half bushel and walks over the ground, and throws a handful of it down where the hills are to be, measuring out the distance with his feet as he passes along: a boy follows, and after opening the ashes with his foot, that the corn may not come in immediate contact with it, drops 4 or 5 kernels, and covers it lightly. He applies about 6 bushels of ashes and plaster in this way. As soon as the corn appears above ground, the cultivator is passed through each way, and in 10 days the same process is repeated. A man with a hoe then removes the weeds round the corn, but does not earth up in the least. Sometimes the cultivator is passed through a third time—a main object being to keep the ground light—and if any weeds remain in the hills, a boy passes through and takes them out by hand. He stated that two acres were a good day's work for a man and horse to cultivate. The whole expense of keeping clean an acre, did not exceed $4. On an acre and a half, he raised 76 1-2 bushels of corn: it was planted 23d of May; the hills 2 1-2 feet each way. When the corn becomes glazed, the stalks are cut up at the ground; four hills are laid in one heap, and on the same day, or in the course of a few days, according to the weather, two heaps are put in one, placing the dry sides together, and bound with rye straw; it is then set up in shooks of 4 bundles each, and afterwards carried to a wall, and set on the southern side, two or three bundles deep, where it remains until sufficiently dry to cart to the barn.

His system makes deep and permanent improvement, and when the land is plowed again, a rich, mellow loam will be turned up. When the manure is plowed in 8 or 10 inches deep, the corn does not get all the advantage of it, but the after crops are benefited by it, especially when the land is plowed the second time. He frequently sows grass seed at the last time of hoeing.

(Continued on 6th page.)

For the New England Farmer.

BLACK SWAMP MUCK AS A MATERIAL FOR COMPOST.

Mr Breck—Dear Sir—I have just read Mr Robinson's remarks on black swamp muck as published in your paper of yesterday, and would offer a few suggestions to aid you and our mutual friend, Mr Levi Bartlett, whom you call upon, in explanation of the deleterious effects attributed to that substance.

I regard Mr Robinson's observations as important, for they will cause a more careful examination of the properties of swamp muck and peat, which will result in clearing away the difficulties which a number of farmers have met with in the use of these substances as manures.

Swamp muck is derived from the partial decomposition of fallen leaves, wood, mosses and herbaceous plants, under water. When free from deleterious substances, this material is highly valuable as a manure, for it is identical with the usual organic matters present in all fertile soils, and consists of vegetable matter containing carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen—the elements of all the organic matters of plants.

In addition to the organic matters, swamp muck contains phosphates of lime and magnesia, with lime combined with the organic acids and the siliceous matter which forms a part of the structure of plants. A little potash and soda are also contained in it, but most of the alkaline matters are removed by the action of water during the decay of vegetable substances beneath it.

This is, perhaps, a sufficient description of the origin and nature of pure swamp muck. Let me now call your attention to the most common deleterious matters which are found in it.

1st, *Sulphate of iron*, or copperas. This forms by the slow oxidation of iron pyrites, or bi-sulphuret of iron, which is a common ingredient in certain rocks—the sulphur taking oxygen from air and water to convert it into sulphuric acid, while the iron oxidates from the same exposure, and is converted into oxide of iron, and the sulphuric acid and oxide of iron combine, producing the well known salt called copperas, or sulphate of the oxide of iron. It is this salt that gives to swamp muck that peculiar blackness, noticed by Mr Robinson. Its origin may be pointed out in the rocks in the uplands around, for the slate rocks of Portsmouth and vicinity abound in brassy looking particles of iron pyrites, and their stained surface shows that the formation of copperas is going on rapidly. Not only sulphate of iron is formed from those rocks, but sulphate of alumina is also produced, and runs with the copperas into the low grounds and becomes united with the muck.

Both the salts I have mentioned are destructive to vegetable life, and will decompose plants with great rapidity, especially when their solutions become concentrated by the action of the sun's heat, which evaporates the water and makes a stronger solution of the salts. Any one may bring this to the test of a *crucial experiment*, if they are not satisfied with the above statement. Immerse plants in a solution of copperas or of sulphate of alumina, and observe how soon they will be blackened and decomposed. Mix copperas or sulphate of alumina with good neutralized peat or muck, and try it on vegetation, and you will observe the same effects as those noticed by Mr Robinson. In black muck swamps, throw up a heap of the earth from beneath, and leave it exposed to dry, and you will soon find its surface covered with an efflorescence of copperas and alum, which you may distinguish by their taste.

There is no difficulty in converting the noxious salts above noticed, into valuable manures, and the worst black swamp muck will make the best compost.

You can take your choice as to the kind of salt you will make from the sulphuric acid in the sulphates I have noticed. If you mix slacked lime intimately with the muck, the sulphuric acid will unite with the lime and form gypsum, or sulphate of lime, and the oxide of iron will be precipitated in a harmless state. If alum is present, it will be decomposed in like manner, and alumina will be throw down, while sulphate of lime will result. Merely mixing in lime coarsely, will not answer the purpose for it will come in contact with only a few of the particles of the copperas or alum. It would be better, then, to mix the lime in with water.

The proportions required for a given amount of muck, can only be known by a chemical analysis; but no harm arises from an excess of lime, since it will prove serviceable when it becomes saturated with the organic acids or by carbonic acid from the air.

Sulphate of lime is not wanted in the soils near Portsmouth, for they naturally are well supplied with it. On that account, it will be better to make some other sulphate which will prove beneficial. If sulphate of potash is wanted, add ashes to the muck, and it will be formed. If sulphate of ammonia is preferred, drench the muck with urine or mix it with night-soil, or with any animal matters, or with fish. The offal of the fish market at Portsmouth, has already, at my suggestion, been made highly profitable, by saving it, and making a compost with muck, and thus far the results have proved satisfactory.

Peat, and some swamp muck, possess remarkable antiseptic qualities—(erroneously attributed to tannin, which does not exist in them)—and sometimes it is found that night-soil and animal matters mixed with them, do not decompose entirely. This may be remedied by mixing recently slacked lime with the compost while digging it over in the spring. An immediate decomposition ensues, and the whole mass becomes warm, and gives out the odor of ammonia. This gas may be saved by covering the heap with a thin layer of fresh muck.

Mr Robinson has stated that where lime was mixed with muck, it still proved noxious to corn. I will venture to say that there was some mistake in that experiment; and unless it can be shown that the lime was slacked, and so intimately mixed with the muck as to come in contact with the copperas, we must repudiate the experiment, as improperly performed. It may be well to watch the field manured with that compost, and see if it does not ultimately become more fertile than the land on which the compost had not been spread.

Recent lime abstracts carbonic acid from the air, and so long as it is doing so, is unfavorable to vegetation; but after it has become quite saturated, it is highly fertilizing; for, as vegetable acids decay, they furnish acids, which, by combining with the lime, gradually disengage the carbonic acid gas, which goes to nourish the foliage of growing plants, and exerts very marked reactions on the insoluble alkaline silicates in the soil, eliminating the alkalies in the state of carbonates, which are soluble manures, highly beneficial, especially when gradually set free, so as to meet the growing wants of vegetation.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

CHARLES T. JACKSON.

Boston, Feb. 12th, 1846.

☞Dr. Jackson—always as ready as he is *able* to throw light on matters perplexing to the farmer, and to aid him in his pursuit—has our thanks, as he will doubtless have the thanks of others, for the foregoing communication. The advice given will prove serviceable to many. The opinions of Dr. J. relative to the value of swamp muck for compost, are of a thousand times more worth than the results of such loosely and improperly conducted experiments with the muck, as appears to have been that mentioned by Mr Robinson, in the case of the 12 acres of corn.

Some would-be-thought philosophers among us—wiser in their own conceit than they are generally esteemed by others—tell us, with dogmatical assurance, that lime is of *no use* in a compost heap, as an assistant in the process of decomposition of vegetable substances,—that its presence *will not excite heat*. Dr. Jackson says lime *will* excite heat and accelerate decomposition, if applied as he directs: and this assertion, we presume, is not based on scientific theory, *merely*, but on experiments made under his direction.—Ed.

☞We find the following *puff* of our neighbor of the "Ploughman," in the New York Farmer and Mechanic. Presuming his modesty will restrain him from copying it into *his* columns, we put it into ours—with the hope that in doing so we may not incur his displeasure:

"*Massachusetts Ploughman.*—This weekly farmer's journal is distinguished for its judicious and practical character. During the session of the Legislature in Boston, it reports the conversational meetings.

Lime.—At a recent meeting the speakers appeared to condemn the use of lime. Mr Buckminster says '*slacked lime does not promote decomposition in any case.*'"

New England Liberality.—The Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, recently paid to the editor of the New England Farmer, *one hundred and fifty dollars*, for copies of that paper to be distributed as agricultural premiums. Is it any wonder that both agriculture and agricultural papers thrive where people act thus? Herein we have one of the reasons why New England looks, almost everywhere, like a well tilled garden.—*Southern Cultivator, Augusta, Ga.*

Large Yield.—Mr Isaac Bowles, of Winthrop, in this county, raised 116 bushels of corn to the acre, upon an acre and a quarter of land, in 1841, and from the same land, in 1843, he secured 6 tons 18 cwt. and 7 lbs. of good hay. These facts are certified to the Kennebec Ag. Society, under the proper evidence. How much better does land do in Ohio? In Virginia, the average crop of corn will hardly exceed 15 bushels to the acre, and as for hay, about all they have of that, they are indebted to Maine for. Give us Kennebec yet.—*Banner, Augusta, Me.*

Potatoes in Ireland, where they complain of a famine, are said to be 50 per cent. cheaper than they are here. Can a rational cause be assigned for the fact, when the crops in many parts of our country have been comparatively good?—*Exch. pap.*

From the Southern Cultivator.

COW-OLOGY.

The last No. of (Skinner's) *Farmer's Library*, brings us acquainted with a very curious book on a very curious subject. The title of the book is, "*A Treatise on Milch Cows: whereby the quality and quantity of milk which any cow will give, may be accurately determined, by observing natural marks or external indications alone—the length of time she will continue to give milk*, &c. By M. Francis Guenon, France. And the object of the book is to propose a system, by which, in addition to what is specified in the title, on examination of a calf a few months old, its future milking qualities may be predicted.

Strange as this may appear, it is, nevertheless, maintained to be true by members of the highest character of the Agricultural section of the French Academy of Sciences. And in the *Journal d' Agriculture Pratique*, as quoted by the Farmer's Library, it is stated that Mons. Guenon, a farmer of Libourne, having discovered an infallible method of ascertaining the lactiferous (milking) qualities of cows, by means of certain invariable signs, easily found on these animals, invited a rigid investigation of his theory, by the Agricultural Society of Toulouse. A committee was accordingly appointed by that Society, who reported:

"We conducted M. Guenon into seven cow-stables with which he was entirely unacquainted. Here fortysix cows were submitted to his inspection. In twentytwo instances, he named the *exact number of pints given by each cow*; in fourteen, he came within a pint, and in ten, within two or three pints.

"Exact precision as to number of pints, however, is deemed of little importance, as the quantity of milk is liable to vary, with many circumstances, as food, temperature, date of calving, &c. But the main fact of the discovery we *consider as established*, as Monsieur Guenon invariably distinguishes the good from the bad milkers."

Highly respectable as are these foreign authorities, we should still have some suspicion that there might possibly be some mistake in the matter, were it not that one of our own citizens has prepared a translation of Monsieur Guenon's book for American readers. N. P. Trist, formerly U. S. Consul at Havana, now engaged in the Department of State at Washington, is the translator. His name is a sufficient guarantee that there is no humbug in the business. Here is what he says about it in his preface:

The Translator to the Reader.

Nonsense! Who can believe any such thing? What! by merely looking at a cow, be able to tell how much milk she is capable of being made to yield; and also how long she can continue to give milk after being got with calf!—to be able thus to ascertain, not only what are the qualities of a full grown cow, but what are to be the qualities of any heifer calf, by looking at her while yet but two or three months old! Surely, if ever there was a humbug, this is one.

Softly, Mr Reader! You are very incredulous, no doubt, but I defy you to be more so than I was when in your present position. * * When this discovery was first mentioned to me, as one which had recently been published in France, I smiled at the credulity of some people. My informant perceiving what effect the announcement had upon me, said, "It *is so*, however." He offered to send me the book; and, though I had not the least idea of throwing away my time in reading it, civility would not allow me to decline. It came, and I opened it with the intention merely of looking into it sufficiently to say that I had done so. When, however, in turning the pages over, I saw that this piece of quackery, (as I felt sure the pretended discovery must be,) had engaged the attention of distinguished Agricultural Societies in France, and had earned Gold Medals for its author, in a country where they are not prone to be lavish of such substantial marks of approbation, my curiosity was awakened, and I had soon read enough to bring home to me once more, for the thousandth time, that homely old truth, "We live to learn."

Since then, many things have occurred to strengthen my confidence in the reality of this discovery, and in its high practical value to all interested in the preservation and improvement of milk stock—and who is it that is not interested in its productiveness? The most recent of these incidents is as follows:

A friend to whom I had lent the translation, accompanied with the plates which are requisite to make it intelligible, showed it to a man from the country whose calling had rendered him quite conversant with the subject of cattle. This person's curiosity was so far awakened, that, beside attending to the explanations made to him, he took a sketch of some of the *escutcheons*. After some weeks, he came to see my friend. "That thing (said he) is as true as a book. There is no mistake about the matter. Since I was here, I have looked at more cows than ever you saw; and I am perfectly satisfied that the thing is just as the Frenchman says. I have become convinced, too, of another thing: that our breeds of cattle are by no means the great things they are cracked up to be."

N. P. T.

☞Wonderful, indeed, is the age in which we live! True, at first thought, the above detailed discovery appears an unmitigated humbug, and nothing else: but some, who are accustomed to *reason* on things before they pronounce them absurdities, may be led to think it no more irrational that the qualities of *cows* should be indicated by external signs, than that the qualities of *men* should be so indicated!—and that it *is so*, in the case of the latter, any adept in phrenology will readily prove to you by a simple operation of the thumb and fingers. Who shall say that "Monsieur Guenon" may not attain as distinguished, wide-spread, and lasting renown, for *his* discoveries in *cow*-ology, as have Gall and Spurzheim for *theirs* in *crani*-ology! —and *his*, like theirs, become enrolled among

"The few, immortal names,
That were not born to die"!

Stranger things have been.

"We live to learn," long since passed into a proverb:—(Father Adam himself found this out;)—and it is no less a truth that *we live to be humbugged*—which we hope may not be the case in relation to the truly wonderful discovery above announced.

D.

A Sprightly Beast.—Said a purchaser to a horse-dealer, "Is that animal sure-footed?" "Perfectly," said the jockey; "when he puts his foot down, you'd think he was never going to take it up!"

To Prevent the Smoking of a Lamp.—Soak the wick in strong vinegar, and dry it well before you use it: it will then burn sweet and pleasant, and give much satisfaction for the trifling trouble in preparing it. Lamp smoke is not only disagreeable to the smell, but hurtful to the lungs.

AN EXPERIMENT WITH DISEASED POTATOES.

[We copy the following from the London Agricultural Gazette:]

I have great satisfaction in giving the result of an experiment that I have instituted here, (amongst others) which has proved in every way effectual in stopping the progress of the disease; and if the disease has not gone so far as to have affected the whole of the skin, or outside of the potato, and consequently destroyed all the eyes, will render them safe to be used as sets for a future crop.

The potatoes were carefully sorted, keeping the sound ones separate from those that were diseased, some of the latter being so bad that their whole surface was affected with it, and a tally put to each sample denoting their particular condition. A quantity of the common quick-lime of this neighborhood, being put into a large shallow tub, water was added in the proportion of about 3 gallons to every stone (14 lbs.) of lime, and well mixed; the potatoes were put into a wire riddle, and and just dipped into the mixture, keeping it well stirred, until all were done. This was in November: a few of each sample were put into a hot-house, to see what effect the lime had on their eyes. They soon became excited, burst through the lime, and produced vigorous sprouts. A few of each were also boiled, but their flavor was not in the least affected.

The effect of the lime is evidently to arrest the disease at once, by its powerful caustic (or antiseptic) property, and it absorbs from the tubers the superabundant moisture which they contain, and consequently prevents further decomposition. Having frequently examined them, I can confidently assert that the disease has not made any progress whatever since the application. They were affected with the disease in every stage of its progress, between the sound and rotten potato, and id every case it has proved effectual in stopping it, as is easily seen when they are cut; while those of the same sorts, not subjected to the process, and placed exactly under the same circumstances, show every sign of progressing decomposition, and some have entirely rotted.

The advantage and importance of this remedy, are, therefore, very great, as the diseased potatoes are rendered fit for sets. [We should hesitate to use them for this purpose.—*Ed. Far.*] I shall have no hesitation in planting them in the spring for a general crop, and, in fact, intend them for this use.

I would strongly recommend the process to be at once adopted by any person who has any unsound potatoes in his possession, as I feel confident it will put a stop to the progress of decay.

I would also recommend every person to dip their sound potatoes, intended to be planted, in the same mixture, only adding about one-fourth more water to the same quantity of lime—*Joseph Paxton, Chatsworth, Dec.* 30.

☞The following inquiry will doubtless be interesting to those who set a high value on *corn-cobs and buckwheat:*

Food for Horses, &c.—Can sawdust, shavings, young branches of trees, or twigs of hawthorn hedges, be turned to account as food for cattle, horses, pigs, &c.? If so, that which is fit for human food might be economized. A chemical change might, I think, be produced, by which food might be obtained which would yield, perhaps, only a small amount of nourishment, but which would keep up the animal heat of the system.—*J. S. R., in London Ag. Gaz.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1846.

FIFTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

(Continued from the 3d page.)

He (Mr Stanley) had tried ashes every way. One season he put ashes in the hill in one part of the field, when planted, and on the remainder of the field, applied it soon after the corn came up. Where it was put in the hill, the corn ripened about ten days sooner than the other, and produced at the rate of about ten bushels more per acre. The next year, a part of a row was missed in applying ashes. The result was, that three times the quantity was raised where there the ashes was applied.

He plants the white and yellow eight-rowed corn mixed together, and allows only four stalks to stand in a hill. These varieties of corn give half a bushel and a half peck of shelled corn to a bushel in the ear.

One advantage of plowing so deep as he did, was the complete pulverization of the soil; another, weeds are less troublesome, as they will not flourish on the sterile subsoil which is brought to the top.

Mr Dodge, of Hamilton, said he was pleased to hear so good a report of the corn crop; but was rather surprised to learn that it could be raised so cheap as had been represented: if it was so, we should do our best to raise it. It was, however, contrary to his experience, and he confessed he was somewhat staggered by the statement, and thought there must be some secret about it, and wished to know wherein it lay. Did it consist in the application of ashes in the hill? He also wished to learn the benefit of burying the manure so deep. He thought himself it was bad husbandry; he had tried it one year and was satisfied. The greatest benefit was derived from the manure when spread and plowed in lightly: the crop would then feel the effects of it the first year. He could conceive the reason why weeds or anything else, would not grow upon land treated as Mr Stanley had described.

Mr Stanley replied, that his first crop, he thought, would do little without ashes. All the benefit was not derived in the first year, from the manure plowed in; but in breaking up the sward the fourth year, this manure would be plowed up.

Mr Dodge thought manure and labor must be very cheap with Mr Stanley. He agreed with him in making no hills, and in sowing grass seed among his corn in July. When the manure is placed in the hill only, the corn would look much better in June, than when the manure is spread; but when the roots got beyond the hill, they would not find sufficient nourishment to perfect the corn. Some farmers think the corn will be blown down if not hilled; but this was a great mistake. He said he had yet to learn from any well authenticated facts, whether corn was any better to be cut up when glazed, than to stand and ripen before cutting. Many farmers in Essex county, had tried the experiment of letting the corn stand in the field to ripen without topping, but had now abandoned it, and returned to the old fashion way of cutting the stalks. He thought the Northern corn was better to sow for green fodder than the Southern, as the latter grows so coarse and rank, the cows will not eat it. He had tried the Sweet corn for the same purpose, and although cows will eat it more greedily at first, they are soon cloyed, and he was satisfied it was not so profitable as the Northern corn. The idea of raising corn fodder for cows, was first received by him at one of the first agricultural meetings held in the State House some years back, and he had found it to be one of the most valuable improvements that had been made for years, for now, by supplying his cows with green corn in August, when our pastures generally fail on account of drought, he could make as much butter as in June. For raising corn fodder, he prepared a compost formed of equal parts of mud direct from the meadow, and barn-yard manure; these heat in a few days, when mixed, and were then sufficiently prepared to spread upon the land. He sowed in rows two feet apart, and sowed the corn thick to prevent it from growing rank. He went through it with the cultivator once. Some Southern corn that he planted for fodder, grew so rank that the wind blew it down, and the whole field was of little value.

Mr Leonard, of Marshfield, had formerly manured in the hill, but had abandoned this practice, and spread his manure on the land, as thick as possible, and plowed it in. Mr Leonard read the following letter from the Superintendent of the farm of Daniel Webster, in Marshfield, detailing the result of some experiments in manure:

Marshfield, Feb. 7, 1846.

Rev. Sir:—In answer to your inquiries respecting Mr Webster's method of growing corn at Marshfield, I shall state it as briefly as possible.

First, it may be proper to state that his field was not intended for a forced crop, or to produce a great yield—his motive being to ascertain the relative properties of different manures. His field contains 12 acres. Three acres were manured with fish in July, 1844, one hundred barrels to the acre. These were plowed under as fast as they were caught. In October following, five acres were manured with kelp, twentyfive loads, or about 8 cords, to the acre. This was also plowed under in the fall. Two acres were manured from the barn in April last, twentyfive loads to the acre. The remaining two acres were left without manure, to try the virtues of guano.

The whole twelve acres were plowed about the 20th of April. The field was then harrowed over once, and drills opened with a common horse plow, four feet apart. On the 10th of May, the whole field was planted with white corn, by dropping from four to six kernels in each hill, three feet apart. Samples of this corn may be seen at the seed store of Messrs. Breck & Co., Boston. On the 20th of June, we applied the first dressing of guano, consisting of six hundred pounds of guano mixed with twentyfour loads of dry riddled earth. This was sown broadcast. On the 22d of July, we applied another dressing of guano, say about one-third the quantity first used. This was put near each hill.

The result of the experiment is this:—Kelp stands No. 1; fish No. 2; barn manure No. 3; guano No. 4. At harvest, the ears of corn were carefully measured in baskets of equal size; one basketfull being reserved as a standard to ascertain as near as possible the product of the whole field. The weight was found to be 37 1-2 pounds of shelled corn to a basket. The whole number of baskets thus measured was 1078, which multiplied by 37 1-2, gives as the result, 40,425 pounds. Let this be divided by 62, the number of pounds we find this corn weighs to the bushel, and the answer is 652 bushels, or 54 1-3 to the acre.

It may be proper to state that this field is of a light sandy soil, and would not probably produce more than 20 bushels of corn to the acre without the aid of manure. * *

Yours, with true regard,

Rev. Geo. Leonard. Seth Weston.

Mr Gray, of Boston, said that the remarks of Mr Stanley had gone far to settle one point in his mind. For the last three or four years, he had been led to consider the practice of planting corn in hills one of doubtful propriety. He thought if Mr Stanley had raised at the rate of 65 bushels of corn to the acre, it did great credit to his husbandry. He also thought the corn should ripen without cutting off the top. His cattle preferred corn fodder to any other kind. In answer to an inquiry from the Chairman, Mr Gray estimated a cord of manure as weighing from sixty to sixtysix hundred pounds.

Col. Page, of New Bedford, spoke of an experiment which he had tried, to ascertain the effects of guano on his corn land. He plowed up to the depth of about a foot, a field containing one acre and a half. The soil was a gravelly loam. Upon one part of this field, he put at the rate of about thirty tons of stable manure, well prepared, to the acre, and plowed it in, which he thought more profitable than manuring in the hill. On the remainder of the field, he put about 300 pounds of guano, prepared with a bushel of plaster to the hundred pounds of guano. This he put into the hill. For a further experiment, he doubled the quantity in two rows, and put none in two adjoining rows. The season was dry, but the whole field appeared flourishing. He could distinguish no difference, during the season, between the rows with double the quantity of guano, and those with none in the hills. The whole field ripened equally, and yielded ninety bushels of corn. The corn was of two kinds—viz: the yellow eight-rowed, and the red twelve-rowed, samples of which were shown.

The Editor of the N. E. Farmer, had seen the land on the farm of Mr Webster, on which the experiment mentioned in the above letter was tried, and stated that the soil was poorer where the guano was applied, and consequently it could hardly be considered a fair trial. Guano would succeed best when made into a compost.

Mr Dodge mentioned a plan which he adopted, in feeding out corn stover. He cut as wanted, in latter part of July and August, and threw the fodder over the wall into the pasture, towards evening, for his cattle to eat before milking. He thus made an acre of corn last until frost.

Subject for discussion at the next meeting—The Culture of Potatoes and other Root Crops.

Philological.—One who likes to call things by their right names, puts to us this quere:—"Is the term *fodder* correctly used when applied to *green* food, as uncured corn-tops? It is very commonly thus applied. Might not *green grass*, with as much propriety, be called fodder?—and is there any propriety in using the term in either case? *My* dictionary defines *fodder* thus—'*Dry* food, stored up for cattle against winter.' It is as well to be *right* in the use of words—and this consideration is the only importance claimed for the quere herein proposed. Lexicos."

Our dictionary, also, defines fodder "*dry* food." Perhaps its common application to *green* food, as corn-tops, may be defended on the ground of convenience. "Custom makes a law."

☞M. P. Wilder, Esq. exhibited at the Horticultural Hall on Saturday, a lot of splendid Camellias—including several seedlings of great beauty and promise.

☞Cows in pregnancy, should receive extra care and food, at this season.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Feb. 15.

Feb. 1846.	7, A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday, 9	2	26	14	N. W.
Tuesday, 10	0	16	16	N. W.
Wednesday, 11	21	23	20	N.
Thursday, 12	10	17	15	S.
Friday, 13	3	24	21	N. W.
Saturday, 14	8	25	26	N. W.
Sunday, 15	27	24	12	E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Feb. 16, 1846.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 345 Beef Cattle, 1200 Sheep, and 760 Swine. 200 Swine have been before reported. 300 Sheep and 550 Swine unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—Last week's prices were fully sustained. We noticed nine beautiful Cattle from Westfield and Springfield, price not public. We quote Extra $5,75 a $6. First quality $5,50 a $5,75. Second quality $5,00 a 5,25. Third quality $4,25 a $4,75.

Sheep.—Dull. Sales from $2,00 to $4,00.

Swine.—Two lots of Shoats selected—4 for Sows and 5 for Barrows. A lot of large Shoat Barrows selected, 4 5-8. There appears to be very little demand for Shoats, either in lots or retail. Nearly all of four droves remain unsold.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 a 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 00 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 11½c.—Southern, 10 a 11c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. The Grain market still continues heavy, without any receipts of importance for several days past.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 a 00—Southern, round yellow, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, 62 a 63—do. do. white 58 a 60—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 80 a 83—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 40 a 43— Northern do. 44 to 00—Beans, per bushel 1 37 a 1 50.—Shorts, per double bush. 50 a 55—Bran, 00 a 40.

FLOUR. The stock of Genesee being a good deal reduced, prices, for the most part of the week, have continued as previously reported. Other kinds are considerably lower.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $5 00 a 5 12—do. wharf, $5 00 a 5 12—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 00 a 5 12—Fredericksburg, low l'd new $5 00 a 5 12—Alexandria, wharf, 5 00 a 5 12—Georgetown, $0 00 a 5 25—Extra do. 0 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $5 12 a 5 25—do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 62½ a 5 68¾—do fancy brands, $5 87 a 6 00—Ohio via Canal, $5 25 a 5 37—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $4 75 a 5 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $4 12 a 4 25.

PROVISIONS. There is a little more doing in Pork and Lard, but without any change for the better, in prices.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 50 a 9 00—Navy—$7 50 a 8 00.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $14 00 a 14 50—do Clear $00 00 a 13 50 do. Mess, $12 00 a 13 00—do Prime $10 00 a 10 50—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'ng, 11 a 13—do store, uninspected, 12 a 14—do dairy, 15 cts. a 20—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 8¼ a 8½—do South and Western, 8 a 8½— Hams, Boston, 8¼ a 9—Southern and Western, 8½ a 9—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 6 a 8—do new milk, 7½ a 0.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

There has been a fair demand for Fleece and Pulled Wool, and prices remain unchanged.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 40 a 41 c.—American full blood, do 37 a 38—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 33—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 31—1-4 and common do 27 a 29 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 18 a 20—Do. unwashed, 10 a 14 — Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 13—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 36—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 18 a 20—No. 3 do do do 14 a 16.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

Sales of a few bales by growers at 23c. per lb., and 10 bales by a dealer at 25c. do. cash, for first sort.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 25 a 00 ; 2d do 22 a 23.

HAY, 20 to 21 per ton—Eastern Screwed $17 to 18.

EGGS, 15 to 18.

SUPERB VARIETIES OF FLOWER SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. *Seedsmen and Florists*, No. 51 and 52 North Market street, (up stairs) have now received a full supply of fresh *FLOWER SEEDS* from the most celebrated Florists of Europe, from their own garden in Brighton and from other sources, of the most select varieties—ever offered in this country. Special attention has been given by the subscribers in long practice, in improving the numerous varieties of hardy Flowers, which have so long been the object of their cultivation, and they feel assured that the seeds saved by themselves, cannot be surpassed by any other growers in the country.

Among some of the choice seeds are the following, viz:

Extra fine Verbena seeds, raised by an amateur in this country, from a bed of seedling, of 40 different varieties of every color and shade, price per package,	25
Extra fine Double Picotee and Carnation Pink seed, saved from a bed of 50 fine double varieties, (Breck & Co's. best,)	25
Extra Double Carnation seed from fine named Florists Flowers (imported,)	25
Extra double Picotee Pink seed from fine named double Flowers (imported)	25
Fine Carnation and Picotee Pink seed,	12½
Extra Double Florists Pink seed, from choice named Flowers (imported)	25
Double Chinese Imperial Pink seed, raised in this country from a bed of 50 or more fine varieties,	12½
Phlox Drummondii, mixed colors, embracing scarlet, crimson, purple, rose, pink, and variegated varieties,	12½
Calceolarias, mixed varieties, from fine named sorts,	25
Pansy seed, from a collection of named sorts,	25
Geraniums, from a great variety of fine named sorts,	25
Petunia seed, from a great variety of fine mixed, variegated and other sorts,	12½
Double Hollyhock seed, in boxes containing sixteen distinct varieties,	75
German Asters, of the most improved and splendid sorts, in boxes of 12 beautiful varieties,	75
Annual and perennial Lupins, in boxes, containing 16 distinct species and varieties, many of them most superb,	75
Goodetias and Œnotheras in boxes, 10 best varieties and species,	50
Russian and other ten week stock, 20 distinct varieties,	1,00
Ditto 10 ditto ditto	50
A collection of 20 best varieties of Annual Flower seeds,	1,00
Ditto 40 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds,	2,00
Boxes containing a choice collection of 100 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds,	4,00
Polyanthus seed from fine named sorts, per package,	25
Auricula ditto	25
Didiscus cœrulea,	12
Brachycome Iberidifolia,	25
Mimulus—8 varieties,	75
Do. single paper,	12½
Double Balsams, 10 superb varieties,	62½
Four varieties fine Candytuft,	25
Six " sweet Peas,	37½
Four " wall Flower,	25
Four " Schizanthus,	25

Also, other fine varieties, too numerous to mention, embracing a rare collection of more than 400 varieties. Catalogues may be had on application.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Feb. 2.

FARM FOR SALE,

Situated in Newton, on the Worcester Turnpike, about seven miles from Boston. Said Farm contains about fifty-five acres of good land. Has a two story House, Barn, Sheds, &c. A part or the whole will be sold, with or without the Buildings. For terms, &c. apply to the owner living upon the premises, or to C. Aiken. No. 56, South street, Boston. WILLIAM AIKEN.

Feb. 11, 1846. pd. 2m. i. s.

FOR SALE,

A *FARM* in Westboro', near the depot of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, containing about twentyfive acres, well divided. Being the estate occupied by the late Nathan Fisher, Esq., deceased. If not sold previous to March 10th, the same will be rented. Refer to George Denny, Esq., Boston, Jabez G. Fisher, Esq. near the premises, or of the subscriber. NATHANIEL FISHER.

Westboro', Jan. 26, 1846. 3wis.

ESSAY ON GUANO.

For sale at Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Teschemacher's Essay on Guano,—describing its properties and the best methods of its application in Agriculture and Horticulture, with the value of importations from different localities; founded on actual analyses, and on personal experiments upon numerous kinds of trees, vegetables, flowers, &c. Price 25 cents. J. BRECK & CO.

MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture. His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

In testing the quality of Plows, the power by which it is moved, the ease with which it is handled, and the manner in which it completes the work, are three important points, all of which are wisely, accurately and judiciously preserved in these improved Plows.

The character of these Plows for ease of draft and management, and the excellence of their work, though well established in the minds of the farming community, were most fully and satisfactorily exhibited to the public at the grand trial of Plows by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at Worcester, October 9th, 1844, whose able and impartial committee awarded the highest premium of $50 to B. Martin, for the best Plow, for doing the best work with the least draft, in a trial open to the whole Union—this Plow running in its natural course, and keeping its true position, without any effort of the plowman, and turning a furrow 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep, with a much less draft than any other Plow on the ground.

These Plows, as improved, are considered to be nearest to perfection of any implements of the kind in this country, as well in respect to material and workmanship, as in form of construction.

At the late Cattle-Show and Plowing-Match of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, in the heart of that most valuable agricultural county, B. Martin's Plow received the highest and most enthusiastic commendation from intelligent and experienced practical farmers, who know and are the most competent judges.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain. Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

FARMERS' ALMANACK FOR 1846.

For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office, Thomas's Almanac for 1846, by the hundred or dozen.

Boston, Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An Indian Hanging.—The first Indian that was capitally executed by the Cherokees, under Cherokee laws and by a Cherokee Sheriff, was a man named Nat, who was hanged several years ago, about five miles from Van Buren, Arkansas, for the murder of another Indian, who was called Mosquito. We have the particulars from an eye witness. The Sheriff had caused a gallows to be erected a short distance from the Court Lodge, but when the culprit was brought to it, he being a very tall man, it was found to be too short for his accommodation, and some other place had to be sought for the execution.

The whole band of Indians, with the Sheriff and Nat in the midst of them, then betook themselves to the banks of the Arkansas, in search of a proper tree from which to suspend the prisoner; and after a little time, a tall cotton wood was found, with a projecting branch far up the trunk, and in the opinion of all was suitable for the purpose. Nat, now that all things were ready, expressed a wish to bathe in the river once more, which he was permitted to do, carefully guarded by the rifles from the shore. He went into the water, frolicked about for some time, swam to and fro, with great apparent pleasure—then came to the shore, and donned his blanket, and stood ready for the last act of the drama. The Sheriff now told him to climb the tree, which he commenced doing, the officer of the law toiling up after him with the fatal cord. Nat, reached the projecting limb of the tree, and was desired by the Sheriff to work himself as far out upon it, from the trunk as he could, which was done, when the Sheriff adjusted the noose around his neck, and tied the other end of the rope around the limb. All these preparations were conducted with the utmost coolness, and the most perfect good understanding existed between the Sheriff and the Indian. When all the arrangements were completed, the Sheriff told Nat that he would slide down the tree to the ground, and make a signal, when he, the prisoner, must jump off the limb, to which Nat cheerfully assented. The Sheriff reached the ground, and looking up to the limb on which sat the poor victim, he shouted—"Now, Nat, you red devil, jump!" And jump Nat did, and after a few struggles, hung a mass of lifeless clay, to the infinite wonderment of his red brethren, who had never been regaled with the sight of an execution of that kind.—*Albany Argus.*

Rich Spelling.—A friend has handed us the following bill, which was rendered to the mate of an American packet ship, while in the port of Liverpool, for certain expenses incurred by one of the sailors belonging to the vessel, who had been enjoying his liberty on shore for a day or two. It reads thus:

Mr ——,

to ——	deter
aosafada - - - - -	4-6
agitinonimome - - - - -	6
totel - - - - - -	10-6

The bill was duly receipted and paid, but without an explanation, it would be almost impossible to fathom the meaning of the charges. It seems that Jack hired a horse for the purpose of taking a land cruise, but meeting with some unforseen difficulty in his voyage, had been obliged to leave the beast some distance from town, and the owner was put to the expense of getting the animal home. The bill was for the services of the horse, and the consequent trouble, and might be interpreted thus:

Mr ——

To ——	Dr.
A horse, half a day, - -	4-6
Getting of him home, - -	6
—*N. Y. News.*	10-6

School Exercise.—"First class in history, walk up. Who was the first unfortunate speculator?"

"Jonah, thir."

"Why so, Samuel?"

"Bekase he warn't nothin' else."

"That's very good, but not the answer. Next: why was Jonah the first unfortunate speculator?"

"Because he was *sucked in.*"

"The school can have three weeks' vacation."

A country carpenter having neglected to make a gallows that had been ordered to be erected by a certain day, the Judge himself went to the man, and said—

"Fellow, how came you to neglect making the gibbet that I ordered?"

Without intending any sarcasm, the man replied: "I'm very sorry; for had I known that it was for your lordship, it should have been done immediately."

An Inference.—A fellow was once asked what inference he could draw from the text in Job—"And the asses snuffed up the wind."

"Well," he replied, "the only inferencce I can draw is this—that it would be a long time before they would grow fat upon such fodder."

A mechanic in Cincinnati, it is said, closes his shutters in the day-time, and works by lard-oil light, as he considers it cheaper than sunshine.

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The sub oil Plow is unquestionably the most importan agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skilful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say:—"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show*, are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor ahd fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth"

The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

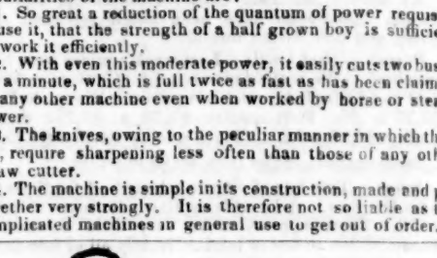
GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co. No. 51 North Market street.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

Remittances, *not exceeding ten dollars*, at any *one time*, may be made as follows:—A subscriber owes us two or eight dollars, which he wishes to remit us. He will pay this amount to the Post Master *in his own town*, and take his *receipt* for it, as money paid him on *our* account. He will then send that *receipt*, enclosed in a letter, *to us*. We pass it to the Post Master in Boston, and get the money for it. This arrangement does away with nearly the whole risk of making remittance, and puts every subscriber in possession of "suitable funds" for that purpose.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS
21 SCHOOL STREET.